

Meeting with Katy, Rep. Kilmer's staffer November 19th 2019

By Holly Brewer, mistakes mine. Meeting with Katy Crabtree, Katy.Crabtree@mail.house.gov
We meet with Rep. Kilmer's staff once a month, generally the last Tuesday. More at www.SADfor.us

Next meeting will be 17th December 3-4 pm at the Norm Dicks Building in Bremerton. Join us!

SLAPP Lawsuits

SLAPP lawsuits are dangerous lawsuits intended by the wealthy to annoy and drain money from the poor by having the lawsuits not intending to win – just to bully. They are most dangerous when used against the press. About half the states have laws against them (WA doesn't) – but the problem is that people in California could sue from WA, for instance – so we need a Federal law against them.

A most entertaining John Oliver episode about it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UN8bJb8biZU>

CCL in DC

Citizen's Climate Lobby, a national group, did their semi-annual trip to Washington DC to talk to our representatives about climate policy. <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/november-lobby-day-2019/>



CCL Folks Visiting with Rep. Kilmer last week

They learnt:

Sen. Cantwell had a carbon tax bill around ten years ago. She is introducing it again soon.

The 2009 [CLEAR Act](#) she worked on with Sen. Collins.

She is a senior member of the Energy & Natural Resources Committee.

<https://www.energy.senate.gov/public/>

Her 2019 statement about global warming. <https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-calls-for-climate-solutions-investment-in-clean-energy-economy>

HR 763

HR 763, Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/763>

CCL promoted it as the bill that tackles many facets of the Green New Deal.

It got 4 new cosponsors when they visited. It now has 73 cosponsors. Its only Republican cosponsor is thinking of retiring. Rep. Kilmer is a cosponsor.

The New Democrat Coalition

The New Democrat Coalition is a group of Reps who work together to write policy. They are continuously writing bills. They have task forces that cover certain areas. The task force on climate change is the one where you'll see bills they write about climate:

<https://newdemocratcoalition.house.gov/policy/task-forces/climate-change>

Rep. Kilmer is the chair of the NDC, and Rep. Schrier (WA CD-8) is on the climate committee.

Two Bipartisan Climate-Related Bills

[HR 2986](#): BEST Act, about energy storage. It has 28 Democrat cosponsors and 13 Republican. Reps. Herrera Beutler (R) and Larsen (D) are WA cosponsors.

[HR 4160](#): Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2019. It has 7 Democrat cosponsors and 4 Republicans. None in WA. It is to restore reefs damaged after disasters and human damage.

Firedrill Friday and Sanders & AOC

They were able to participate in Firedrill Friday with Jane Fonda.

<https://www.janefonda.com/2019/11/my-fire-drill-fridays/>

Sen. Sanders and Rep. Ocasio Cortez launched their new bill, pushing for public housing.

<https://grist.org/politics/bernie-sanders-and-aoc-unveil-a-green-new-deal-for-public-housing/>

We Need to Stop Building New Airports, Cruise Ship Terminals, etc.

New Cruise Terminal in the Sound?

Puget Sound Regional Council has a comment period about this.

Cruise ships would pollute a lot, and that is not a good idea. We are trying to save our salmon and orcas

Please comment: <https://www.psrc.org/comment/reply/9074#comment-form>

A new airport in the Seattle area would be years away. It took years to have third runway at SeaTac. People can weigh in, and state legislature will at the end of the process. The State set up a working group for this consisting of 5 combined counties. If it was built, it would be done by 2040. They got some funding for it from the FAA. We should use Boeing field - but people complained about the noise.

Growing Freight Infrastructure

WA got **Federal grants** this month:

\$11.3 m for an airport freight project in Spokane. <https://bit.ly/2qlpR6F>

\$15.5 m to improve Everett waterfront's ability to deal with freight. <https://bit.ly/372Z5GH>

This is going backward. We need to look closely at how to reinforce our train system and use clean fuel to transport goods – and perhaps how to make them more locally. I am looking into this.

We also need to know if the airports and ports are being subsidized / getting tax breaks.

Solutionary rail is one solution that could change the way we transport goods.

<https://www.solutionaryrail.org/>

Seaweed to Reduce Methane

Scientists have found that feeding cows just 2% of their diet a certain seaweed reduces the amount of methane they produce by 99%. Methane is much worse than CO₂, and they make a lot of it.

<https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/can-seaweed-make-cow-farts-less-potent-scientists-want-to-know/>

The CR Passed the House

The Continuing Resolution Passed the House. We were anxious that it may contain \$ for ICE – we didn't know at the meeting. As of 1/21, it seems that the funding bill for them has not been voted on yet. The CR is just a short term bill. <https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/21/politics/senate-government-shutdown-deadline/index.html>

The deadline to pass it, averting a government shutdown is November 21st.

ICE

They have opened 3 new detention centers. <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2019/07/ice-just-quietly-opened-three-new-detention-centers-flouting-congress-limits/>

The administration is moving money from military and other projects to fund deportations.

<https://www.aclu.org/blog/immigrants-rights/immigrants-rights-and-detention/trump-taking-more-money-raids-and-detention>

ICE is not handling money responsibly. <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/06/22/ice-overspends-tax-dollars-on-a-detention-policy-many-americans-find-abhorrent.html>

Medicare for All

Rep. Kilmer does not support the Green New Deal – by he supports its major tenets, including the urgency with which we have to act. He disagrees with its call for Medicare for all because he says that with the amount Medicare pays clinics and hospitals they couldn't keep their doors open.

They need to increase their rates!

Replace the ACA

There are not enough people using the ACA. Our representatives should replace it, not bandaid it. The stats: <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2019/feb/health-insurance-coverage-eight-years-after-aca>

Health Insurance Companies Shouldn't Make Profits

\$152 bn in profit in 2018 - \$464.55 for every individual in the US (assuming a population of 327.2 m):

https://naic.org/documents/topic_insurance_industry_snapshots_2018_health_ins_ind_report.pdf

Other Issues

Temporary workers have to pay a lot for their insurance between jobs.

Companies get tax breaks for offering health insurance. That is wrong.
Health insurance through the job is bad for small business owners.

Employers can randomly take it away or reduce it like Amazon did for part time workers at Whole Foods.
<https://www.seattletimes.com/business/amazon/amazon-owned-whole-foods-cuts-healthcare-benefits-for-part-time-employees/>

We have enough money to continue to build more and more weapons. It should go to health care.

We need to include vision and dental.

When people go to the emergency room – partly because they can't afford to go to their doctor the emergency room costs the healthcare industry more money – and the costs get passed back to all of us that pay. <https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2019-07-22/avoidable-er-visits-fuel-us-health-care-costs>

WE want Rep. Kilmer to say that he likes the concept of Medicare for all. Right now all he says it that it is not feasible.

NAFTA

USMCA is Trump's new version of the North American Trade Agreement.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/11/13/house-considers-usmca-trumps-nafta-replacement-ahead-of-2020-election.html>

The challenge with it is that if it goes through in its original form it enables companies (particularly fossil fuel companies) to go through a tribunal of 3 people to go against member states if environmental / labor rules impact their bottom line.

Mexico has a history of having protesters disappear. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-35539727> That needs to stop.

We need companies to be inspected.

The Treatment of Immigrants and Refugees

Sherri Williams, in Rep. Kilmer's Bremerton office deals with immigrant policy and issues.

Naturalization Fee Waivers

This administration is now not allowing means tested folks to pay less for the over \$1000 it takes to become a citizen.

On November 14, 2019, the Department of Homeland Security published a proposed rule increasing the filing fees on many immigration applications and increasing the naturalization application fee to \$1170 including biometrics, eliminating fee waivers for naturalization and most other immigration benefits (I-912), eliminating the reduced fee request option (I-942), and transferring over \$200 million to ICE. There is a 30 day period to comment on the proposal.

Please comment and share.

The comment period ends **December 16, 2019**.

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=USCIS-2019-0010-0001>

Asylum Rules

They have changed the rules for claiming asylum. This violates international law.

<https://time.com/5626498/trump-asylum-rule-international-law/>

Public Charge

People can be denied resident status if they have claimed assistance.

<https://www.uscis.gov/greencard/public-charge>

We need totally rewritten immigration laws.

Rep. Kilmer visited a detention center June 2018. He is planning on going again soon.

Katy said that she is inspired by our monthly visits and is thinking of having forums across the district to see what people are thinking about next year.

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